



NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with AHSGR and GRHS

June 14th Chapter Meeting via ZOOM Video Conference!!!



President's Message

— Lee Macklin —

I hope all members have successfully weathered the lingering COVID-19 crisis. So, are you ready for a chapter meeting June 14th!! It will not be at the church, rather we will try what some other chapters have been doing - a Zoom video conference. Some of you may not be familiar with this, so there is information in this newsletter to help you feel more comfortable with participating.

Note, **we moved to a new chapter meeting schedule which will be 4 meetings per year — March, June, October, and December.**

See the Calendar on our website for exact dates.

Be sure to read the new Member Stories, new and updated Recipes, and the great progress we are making on our Library Indexing and Search project. All of this is also on our website.

**Next Chapter Meeting (via Zoom)
Sunday, June 14, 2020 1:30pm**

In This Newsletter

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- GRHS Updates
- Happiness "Posters Thanking Teachers" "Inspirational Quotes" **NEW**

Look for the 2020 Member Survey

Zoom Video Conferencing

– Lee Macklin

This is currently one of the most popular ways to conduct either personal meetings with friends or company meetings. Zoom has made it easy for everyone to participate including grandparents with their grand children, or members of our chapter meeting. You can participate in one of two ways:

If you have a computer with a camera and audio, you can simply click the link in your Zoom email invite, then enter the meeting ID (also included in the invite). If this is your first Zoom meeting on your computer then you will be prompted to let Zoom install its application. This should take less than a minute. You will also have the opportunity to test your computer camera and audio during the install. Note, all modern PCs, Apple Macs, tablets, and smart phones have a camera and audio built in. Zoom works on all of these devices.

However, if you only have a regular phone you can still participate by simply dialing the number in the Zoom email invite (use the San Jose number) then enter the meeting ID (it will be all numbers). I have set the Zoom preferences so you will not be prompted for a password for either computer or telephone. Note, if you are dialing in using a smart phone, then you can simply touch the “One tap mobile” San Jose number which dials the number AND enters the meeting number for you.

The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting invite with the following text and annotations:

- Join Zoom Meeting**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5306265110> (Red arrow points to this link with the text: "Click to join meeting")
- Meeting ID: 530 626 5110** (Red arrow points to this ID with the text: "Enter meeting ID when prompted")
- One tap mobile**
 +16699009128,,5306265110# US (San Jose)
 +12532158782,,5306265110# US (Tacoma)
- Dial by your location**
 +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) (Red arrow points to this number with the text: "Dial up number (only use if you don't have a suitable computer or tablet)")
 +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
 +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
 +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
 +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- Meeting ID: 530 626 5110**
- Find your local number:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdFnWLeF2H>
- Going (lmacklin@comcast.net)? **Yes** - **Maybe** - **No** (Red arrow points to these options with the text: "Click Yes, Maybe, or No so I can plan accordingly") [More options »](#)

Once you have joined the meeting, you can mute/unmute your audio any time as well as share/not share your video (camera). At the bottom of your screen the little microphone icon (far left) is for mute/unmute, and the icon next to the right of it is for sharing/not sharing your video. You can toggle these on or off anytime. Not sharing your video means other participants would not be able

to see you sitting in front of your computer - but they could still hear you unless you also mute your audio.

If someone is presenting, then they would be sharing their computer screen so you would see their presentation on your computer screen. The meeting host has the option to mute everyone's audio except the one presenting.

Here is the link to the main Zoom help site. <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>

Note, on the left are many categories that you can click on like "Getting Started", "Audio, Video, Sharing", or "Meetings and Webinars". Each of these have lots of help topics. For example, on the "Audio, Video, Sharing" help page are two help articles that might be very useful if you are having trouble with either your computer audio or camera (video): "Test computer or device audio", and "How do I test my video".

If any of you want to do a "test run" in advance of our June 14th Zoom meeting, just contact Lee (lmacklin@comcast.net or 916-759-0346) and he can create a Zoom session with just you and Lee anytime that is convenient for you.



Typical Zoom meeting screen unless someone is presenting a presentation.

Note, the icons along the bottom of the screen. The microphone icon on the far left is mute/unmute, and camera icon next to it turns your video on or off.

The 1918 Spanish Flu

— Lee Macklin

The current COVID-19 version of the Flu has certainly affected all of our lives in a major way. So, it might be interesting to look back about 100 years to the Spanish Flu pandemic. There are a lot of eerie similarities!! The following narrative is from the History Channel.

The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-1919, the deadliest in history, infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide—about one-third of the planet's population—and killed an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims, including some 675,000 Americans. The 1918 flu was first observed in Europe, the United States and parts of Asia before swiftly spreading around the world. At the time, there were no effective drugs or vaccines to treat this killer flu strain. Citizens were ordered to wear masks, schools, theaters and businesses were shuttered and bodies piled up in makeshift morgues before the virus ended its deadly global march.

What is the flu?

Influenza, or flu, is a virus that attacks the respiratory system. The flu virus is highly contagious: When an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks, respiratory droplets are generated and transmitted into the air, and can then be inhaled by anyone nearby. Additionally, a person who touches something with the virus on it and then touches his or her mouth, eyes or nose can become infected.

Flu Season

In the United States, “flu season” generally runs from late fall into spring. In a typical year, more than 200,000 Americans are hospitalized for flu-related complications, and over the past three decades, there have been some 3,000 to 49,000 flu-related U.S. deaths annually, according to the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, young children, people over age 65, pregnant women and people with certain medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease, face a higher risk of flu-related complications, including pneumonia, ear and sinus infections and bronchitis.

A flu pandemic, such as the one in 1918, occurs when an especially virulent new influenza strain for which there's little or no immunity appears and spreads quickly from person to person around the globe.

Spanish Flu Symptoms

The first wave of the 1918 pandemic occurred in the spring and was generally mild. The sick, who experienced such typical flu symptoms as chills, fever and fatigue, usually recovered after several days, and the number of reported deaths was low.

However, a second, highly contagious wave of influenza appeared with a vengeance in the fall of that same year. Victims died within hours or days of developing symptoms, their skin turning blue and their lungs filling with fluid that caused them to suffocate. In just one year, 1918, the average life expectancy in America plummeted by a dozen years.

Fighting the Spanish Flu

When the 1918 flu hit, doctors and scientists were unsure what caused it or how to treat it. Unlike today, there were no effective vaccines or antivirals, drugs that treat the flu. (The first licensed flu vaccine appeared in America in the 1940s. By the following decade, vaccine manufacturers could routinely produce vaccines that would help control and prevent future pandemics.)

Complicating matters was the fact that World War I had left parts of America with a shortage of physicians and other health workers. And of the available medical personnel in the U.S., many came down with the flu themselves.

Additionally, hospitals in some areas were so overloaded with flu patients that schools, private homes and other buildings had to be converted into makeshift hospitals, some of which were staffed by medical students.

Officials in some communities imposed quarantines, ordered citizens to wear masks and shut down public places, including schools, churches and theaters. People were advised to avoid shaking hands and to stay indoors, libraries put a halt on lending books and regulations were passed banning spitting.

The Flu Takes Heavy Toll on Society

The flu took a heavy human toll, wiping out entire families and leaving countless widows and orphans in its wake. Funeral parlors were overwhelmed and bodies piled up. Many people had to dig graves for their own family members.

The flu was also detrimental to the economy. In the United States, businesses were forced to shut down because so many employees were sick. Basic services such as mail delivery and garbage collection were hindered due to flu-stricken workers.

In some places there weren't enough farm workers to harvest crops. Even state and local health departments closed for business, hampering efforts to chronicle the spread of the 1918 flu and provide the public with answers about it.

How U.S. Cities Tried to Stop the Spanish Flu

A devastating second wave of the Spanish Flu hit American shores in the summer of 1918, as returning soldiers infected with the disease spread it to the general population—especially in densely-crowded cities. Without a vaccine or approved treatment plan, it fell to local mayors and health officials to improvise plans to safeguard the safety of their citizens. With pressure to appear patriotic at wartime and with a censored media downplaying the disease's spread, many made tragic decisions.

Philadelphia's response was too little, too late. Dr. Wilmer Krusen, director of Public Health and Charities for the city, insisted mounting fatalities were not the "Spanish flu," but rather just the normal flu. So on September 28, the city went forward with a Liberty Loan parade attended by

tens of thousands of Philadelphians, spreading the disease like wildfire. In just 10 days, over 1,000 Philadelphians were dead, with another 200,000 sick. Only then did the city close saloons and theaters. By March 1919, over 15,000 citizens of Philadelphia had lost their lives.

St. Louis, Missouri, was different: Schools and movie theaters closed and public gatherings were banned. Consequently, the peak mortality rate in St. Louis was just one-eighth of Philadelphia's death rate during the peak of the pandemic.

Citizens in San Francisco were fined \$5—a significant sum at the time—if they were caught in public without masks and charged with disturbing the peace.

Spanish Flu Pandemic Ends

By the summer of 1919, the flu pandemic came to an end, as those that were infected either died or developed immunity.

Almost 90 years later, in 2008, researchers announced they'd discovered what made the 1918 flu so deadly: A group of three genes enabled the virus to weaken a victim's bronchial tubes and lungs and clear the way for bacterial pneumonia.

Since 1918, there have been several other influenza pandemics, although none as deadly. A flu pandemic from 1957 to 1958 killed around 2 million people worldwide, including some 70,000 people in the United States, and a pandemic from 1968 to 1969 killed approximately 1 million people, including some 34,000 Americans.

More than 12,000 Americans perished during the H1N1 (or "swine flu") pandemic that occurred from 2009 to 2010. The novel coronavirus pandemic of 2020 is spreading around the world as countries race to find a cure for COVID-19 and citizens shelter in place in an attempt to avoid spreading the disease, which is particularly deadly because many carriers are asymptomatic for days before realizing they are infected.

Each of these modern day pandemics brings renewed interest in and attention to the Spanish Flu, or "forgotten pandemic," so-named because its spread was overshadowed by the deadlines of WWI and covered up by news blackouts and poor record-keeping

- *The History Channel* <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/1918-flu-pandemic>

Bismarck Tribune, October 9, 1918

"Inasmuch as a number of cases of influenza have been reported in Bismarck during the last 24 hours, and in order to control as far as possible the spread of the epidemic influenza, citizens of Bismarck, in accord with instructions today received from the state board of health and from U.S. military authorities, are hereby requested to immediately discontinue all public gatherings; close all schools and places of amusement, and to refrain from common assemblage at any place or time until further notice is given.

This is not only a board of health measure, but it is the substance of a telegram received today from Surgeon General Blue at Washington, and is therefore a war measure, in which the strict compliance of every citizen is most urgently urged.

Parents are hereby notified that while public schools are closed their children must be kept on their own premises and not allowed to congregate on the streets or elsewhere. Special policemen will be employed to patrol the streets, with instructions to bring in children who are not kept at home, and their parents will be held

Dr. F.B. Strauss
City Health Commissioner

Bismarck Tribune, October 14, 1918

STAY AT HOME; DON'T EXPOSE SELF TO "FLU"

City Health Officer Strauss Issues Instructions to the Public

"Stay at home; don't go down town unless you have urgent business there; keep off the streets; don't congregate in stores or on the sidewalks; if you are coughing or sneezing, wear a mask; if you are compelled to be with others who are coughing or sneezing, wear a mask.

These are some of the instructions to the public today issued by City Health Officer Strauss.

'We have the epidemic under control. The spread is checked. What we need now to stamp it out is the active cooperation of every man, woman and child,' said Dr. Strauss this morning.

There are about 400 cases of Spanish influenza in Bismarck. The number of new cases reported this morning was comparatively small. The attacks, however, appear to be gaining in severity as they decrease in number. This is a time when everyone must cooperate with the health department; all of us must obey orders. We must safeguard not our own health alone, but have consideration for others. We have this outbreak under control, and if everyone does as they are told and helps to the utmost, we will soon have the epidemic on the run..."

Mandan News, November 23, 1918

"The number of new cases of flu reported in the city continues to be small. According to Dr. Bunting, City Health officer, 18 new cases of influenza were reported for the week ending the 21st. It is believed to have run its course.

Library Indexing & Search Project Status

— Linda Anderson —

Indexing with supporting details has been completed for all our library books. There are 134 books in our library including a few books written in German. Many books contain hundreds of surnames or pictures, but I wasn't able to detail all of these. However, many were included.

Now using the Search Inventory page you can search all of these books for surnames, photos, religion, culture, food, etc. with an option by location.

Over 600 AHSGR and GRHS journals have been indexed including AHSGR Journals, AHSGR CLUEs, AHSGR Jugend Zeitungs, AHSGR Work Papers, GRHS Heritage Reviews, and GRHS Der Staummbaums.

The last phase is to index all the articles within the journals. Since there are roughly 6-10 articles/journal - there are thousands of articles. So far we have completed indexing about 80 articles. Many thanks to those helping with the article indexing; Bruce Schweigerdt (Lodi), Kerry Meech and Virginia Martin (Golden Gate). If anyone else would like to help, please contact Lee Macklin for indexing training (it can be done via a Zoom conference with Lee). Once we are able to start socializing again, Linda Anderson could provide this training in person.

If you have specific questions regarding the indexed items in our library, please contact Linda Anderson at handerson28@comcast.net or 916-993-9666.

New Member Stories and Pictures

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Sacramento Valley Chapter of Germans from Russia (SVCGR). At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Contact Us, and Members Only. A user profile for Lee Macklin is visible. Below the navigation bar is a header section with the text 'SVCGR Genealogy Stories' and a dropdown menu for 'Stories'. The main content area features three columns, each representing a member story. Each column includes a title, a brief description, the author's name, a small portrait of the author, and buttons for 'Read Story' and 'Pictures'.

Member Story	Author
Life of Walter Emil Flato Family Story Walter was born 1916 in Germany. Served in both Romanian and German military during WWII. Immigrated in 1952 to Lodi, CA.	Lilli Henricksen
Gress Family Story This year is the 127th anniversary of the odyssey of the Gottlieb Gress family, who boarded a ship for Canada on May 11, 1893, after leaving their German village of Felsenburg (near Landau) in South Russia.	Linda Boehm
Dr. Johann Andreas Eisenbarth Story Dr. Eisenbarth was a traveling surgeon from Oberviechtach, Bavaria who specialised in cataract, fracture, and calculus operations. Numerous princes and kings bestowed on him privileges and high titles.	Cindi Jones

We have two new family history stories that you definitely want to read. They are posted on our website (shown above). You will need a member login to read the actual stories and view the pictures. Contact Lee Macklin (lmacklin@comcast.net) if you are not an SVCGR member.

“The Gress Family Story”

— Linda Boehm—



Title: Gress Family Story

Author: Linda Boem (May 11, 2020)

Timeframe: 1893

Location: Felsenburg, Odessa, South Russia (near Landau)

Link to Photos at SVCGR website that Accompany this Story:

<https://www.svcgr.org/gress-family-photos>

The Story

May 11, 1893 – This year is the 127th anniversary of the odyssey of the Gottlieb Gress family. They boarded a ship for a ten day trip to Canada on May 11, 1893, after leaving their German village of Felsenburg (near Landau) in South Russia.

Gottlieb and Magdalena Zander Gress and their five children (Kasper, Joseph, Michael, Rosalie and Matilda) traveled from South Russia to Liverpool, England to board the S.S. Vancouver (Allan Shipping Line, Montreal Ocean Steamship Company).

- (Note: The youngest child of Gottlieb & Magdalena, Catherine Johanna Gress, was born in the United States in 1894. She married Adam J. Boehm.)

The Gress family traveled with Magdalena’s half-brother, Dominick Zander, his wife Elisabetha Berger Zander and their six children (John-with wife Helena and infant, Marianna; and Mathias, Peter, Frank, Raphael and Marian).

- (*UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960*).

With the destination of Quebec, Canada, the S.S. Vancouver left Liverpool on May 11, 1893. The Gress and Zander family accommodations were in steerage. (Imagine shared, tight bunk beds for many families in the same cramped room below deck. Ten cubic feet of luggage was allowed per adult.)

Usually, German-speaking families sailed for the United States from Hamburg, Germany. There are several reasons that leaving from the port of Liverpool in 1893 and sailing to Canada may have been their most compelling option.

- A cholera epidemic had broken out in Hamburg, and travelers were advised to avoid the city.
- Two years previous, in 1891, the United States had enacted restrictions and quota systems on immigration.

“According to the estimate given by the first US immigration inspector at Montreal, about 40 percent of all passengers arriving in Canada were actually bound for the US. Given that immigrants from Canada were not subject to the immigration act of 1891’s restrictive terms, this figure was not at all surprising. The Dominion of Canada encouraged immigration while Canadian steamship and railway lines offered low rates.”

- Family Chronicle magazine, May/June 1999 issue.

After arriving in Quebec, Canada on May 21, 1893, and for the next part of their journey, both families declared Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada as their destination on forms for the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

- (Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935).

Later, Frank Zander said that they had rested up in Canada, with the consideration of homesteading in Regina, Saskatchewan. The area, however, had experienced a drought for the previous three years and the wells were still frozen over in early June.

- (Frank Zander, Morton Prairie Roots, 1776-1976, Morton County Historical Society, p.729)

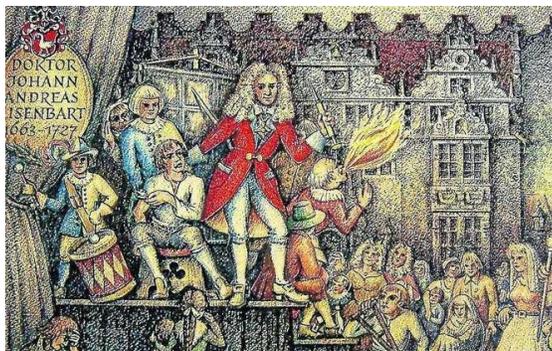
- (Dominic Zander, Morton Prairie Roots, 1776-1976, Morton County Historical Society, p.729)

With these considerations, both families decided to settle in Mandan, Morton County, North Dakota in June of 1893.

NOTE: On the SVCGR website, in the Photos that accompany this story is a picture of the original 1890’s Allan Shipping Line, Montreal Ocean Steamship Company description of the steerage fares, meals they were fed, luggage restrictions, length of trip and other details.

“Johann Andreas Eisenbarth Story”

— Cindi Jones —



Title: Dr. Johann Eisenbarth Story
“Doktor or Quack”

Author: Cindi Jones

Timeframe: 1663 - 1727

Location: Oberviechtach, Landkreis Schwandorf, Bavaria (Bayern), Germany

Link to Photo Gallery at SVCGR that Accompany this Story:

<https://svcgr.org/johann-eisenbarth-photos>

Family Lore – True, False or Somewhere In-between?

Every family has them – that same old story that’s told generation after generation that no one seems (or dares) to question or investigate. What is your family’s lore?

About twenty years ago, one of my many Eisenbarth cousins, actually a first cousin once removed, told me that my great uncle was the famous Dr. Johann Andreas Eisenbarth. He was the doctor to German royalty and even had a nutcracker modeled after him. I had never heard of him before and wasn’t too impressed because at the time I had zero interest in family history. This cousin asked me if I knew we were also related to Catherine the Great. I didn’t know much about Catherine the Great either, but was mildly intrigued by that story. (Surprise, I’ve found no connection to the Empress, yet!) Maybe the Eisenbarth's were more than hard working Germans from Russia.

Bitten by the Genealogy Bug

A few years later, I was bitten by the genealogy bug and decided to run a few internet searches about the Eisenbarth's. My maternal grandmother was born an Eisenbarth and I’ve traced the family from Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming in the United States; from Worms and Rohrbach in Russia; and from Baden-Wurttemberg in Germany. But I found my Dr. Eisenbarth couldn't be my

great uncle because he was born in 1663! In the family lore, his birthdate was omitted, elevating him to the great uncle status, not the sixth to eighth great uncle that he probably should be. However, I'm not ready to proclaim my niece status to Uncle Johann yet because some of the research conflicts with other information. However, I'm working with the Eisenbarth World Family Organization in Germany to pinpoint that relationship. Yes, there's an organization in Germany that keeps track of Eisenbarth family members. I'll keep you all posted when I find out for sure - betcha can't wait!

Vital Statistics

Now, about the famous doctor. Johann Andreas Eisenbarth was born 27 Mar 1663 in Oberviechtach, Bavaria and died at the ripe age of 64 on 11 Nov 1727 in Hann, Munden, Lower Saxony. His grandfather, Wilhelm Eysenbart and his father, Matthias Eisenbarth were itinerant doctors. Johann learned about medicine from his brother-in-law and on-the-job training. Two of Johann's wives were said to assist him in varying degrees, and two of his sons also practiced medicine. One could say medicine ran in the family.

Medical Practice

In layman terms, Dr. Eisenbarth performed cataract surgeries, hernia operations, fixed broken limbs, removed bladder stones, and pulled teeth. He was innovative and invented surgical instruments such as cataract needles, polypus hooks and other tools of his trade. He mass produced and marketed his own homemade medicine in Magdeburg, near Berlin.

Time for a Road Trip

What made Dr. Eisenbarth unique was he wasn't content to just hang his doctor shingle on the office door. He learned from his father that there was money to be made by becoming a traveling doctor. It looks like the desire to make money ran in the family, as well. Many "doctors" travelled from town to town during the 17th and early 18th centuries. Unfortunately, many were swindlers and incompetent doctors who preyed on desperate patients. Dr. Eisenbarth wasn't one of them.

King of Advertising

Dr. Eisenbarth heeded his father's advice to travel the German countryside, but he added a twist - a brilliant marketing plan that one writer dubbed Eisenbarth the "German king of advertising." Before arriving in town, leaflets (some still exist today) were distributed and newspaper ads published. He advertised cures for calculi, scurvy, cataracts, fever, tinnitus, caries, dropsy, "the French disease" (aka syphilis) and memory lapses.

The Circus Comes to Town (sans animals)

When Dr. Eisenbarth rolled into town, it was quite a spectacle. He brought an entourage of 100-120 extravagantly dressed jugglers, sword swallowers, snake charmers, musicians, comedians and beautiful women which created a carnival-type atmosphere. To the eager crowds, "criers" praised Eisenbarth for his successful operations, cures and remedies. Letters of appreciation by former patients and letters written by German royalty were read touting

Eisenbarth's talents. Drum rolls and trumpets then announced Dr. Eisenbarth, who appeared in fancy clothes with a long, curly white wig (like a perm on steroids) and holding a medical staff. While the entertainment continued, he operated on his patients "deftly and quickly," often without anesthesia as we know it today. Loud music and revelry distracted the crowd and helped drown out his patients' cries.

During the Baroque era, the mortality rate from surgical procedures was 80% while Eisenbarth's was only 50%. His success rate may be explained because after a procedure he was known to put his dirty tools on fiery hot coals which sanitized the tools. This caused smoke to rise into the sky and frightened many superstitious people. Because of the smoke, some thought he had a "contract with the devil" but that didn't stop them from believing in his skills. Eisenbarth laughed all the way to the bank.

Kudos from Royalty

Eisenbarth was able to practice medicine throughout Germany because the movers and shakers believed in his talents. Before he could practice in a locality, he was reexamined before a medical board and granted privileges, titles, awards and honors by emperors, princes, and other German royalty. He ultimately practiced his trade in more than 100 locations and for 40 years. Eisenbarth received appointments to the courts of Saxony and Prussia...and well rewarded with money.

Like Rodney Dangerfield, He Can't Get No Respect

But wait, don't nod off yet. The story isn't over. Just like Elvis, Dr. Eisenbarth was not only famous when he was alive, he became wildly famous after his death also. Around 1800, a few bored and/or drunk college students in Gottingen (the brothers Grimm attended there) wrote a song poking fun at Dr. Eisenbarth. The lyrics to "Ich Bin der Doktor Eisenbart" were found in the commercial book of the student association Germania from Gottingen. The lyrics suggested that Eisenbarth was not a talented surgeon; he was a "kurpfuscher," a German word meaning a quack, a charlatan, a mountebank (a person who deceives others). They felt that if anything, his cures caused premature death. The song became a college drinking song (and an excuse to drink more beer.) The song also evolved into different versions as a folk song and a children's song. Generations of Germans, young and old, have sung this song during their lifetimes. It is also known throughout Europe, Canada, the United States, and even Japan. People have added their own verses throughout the years and it now has as many verses as another popular drinking song, "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall", ensuring a hangover if one finishes the entire song. Feel free to add your own verse!

Souvenirs Anyone?!

Dr. Eisenbarth is still popular in Germany and in other countries around the world. In his birthplace home of Oberviechtach, his home in Magdeburg, and his death place in Hann.

Munden, one will find all things Eisenbarth - fountains, statues, festivals, plays, operas, a glockenspiel, a plaster cast of his bust, a pharmacy that sells the Eisenbarth elixir, and tour guides dressed in typical Eisenbarth regalia. In Hann. Munden, the doctor still holds “office hours” in the town hall at 1:30 on Saturday from May through December. Go on the internet and you can buy Eisenbarth nutcrackers made by Steinbach (like the one my cousin coveted), official 1977 West Germany postage stamps, t-shirts, and books.

My Favorite Things

One of my favorite Eisenbarth adventures in a visit to Hann. Munden was the Eisenbarth glockenspiel. It plays the Dr. Eisenbarth song three times a day and it depicts a day in the life of Dr. Eisenbarth and his terrified patient. You can see the Eisenbarth glockenspiel in action on YouTube.

Another favorite that I found on the internet is the “Dr. Eisenbarth Escape Room.” The online ad suggests you will be “chained in a treatment room. You will find an empty syringe next to you with a poisonous plant serum that has been injected in you. You have 60 minutes to find the formula for the antidote. What does this all have to do with Dr. Eisenbarth, who developed surgical techniques and remedies 450 years ago? Figure it out.” Sounds like a horror movie to me! Visit Escapeventure.com - you can play it online...if you dare!

Karma

You are reading this because the Gottingen college kids wrote the lyrics to “Ich bin der Doktor Eisenbarth” 220 years ago. Their original idea was to mock him, but it caused the scientific community to take another look at the Doctor’s practices and restored his good name. If they hadn't written this song, my dear “Uncle Eisenbarth’s” story might have disappeared forever.

All About Food

— Lee Macklin —



“Grandma Joe’s Potato Noodles” recipe — Linda Anderson

On the SVCGR website in the All About Food —> Recipes section there is an updated recipe. Linda Anderson published her “Grandma Joe’s Potato Noodles” recipe on the SVCGR website a couple months ago. A member of the GRHS Black Hills chapter in South Dakota tried the recipe and contacted Linda with his feedback and also included some pictures of his results. So, Linda’s recipe has been updated on our website to include his comments (and his pictures).

<https://www.svcgr.org/recipes>

AHSGR Update

— John Kreutzer —

The home office of AHSGR is in Lincoln Nebraska. This is an interesting time for everyone and AHSGR is no exception. The headquarters facility is fully staffed and operational although access to the museum is currently limited and by appointment only. Meetings of the board of directors are going on as previously scheduled but are being conducted on Skype and Zoom. The international convention, which was scheduled for Pasco WA in July of this year, has been rescheduled to July 2021. (July 27-31) The Headquarters staff is using the time to upgrade programs and systems and plan for the future.

A major emphasis is our website and social media presence. Although the website has been redesigned and enhanced extensively in recent years, this is an ongoing process. The website is already very functional and productive for members and researchers and this will not change. The new changes are intended to make the website more interesting and engaging for casual visitors and those first exploring their GR heritage. Similarly, our social media presence is being reorganized with the intention of reaching more people, particularly the younger generation.

Digitizing of original source materials, acquired in Russia over the past several years is proceeding. This work is being done by a group of dedicated volunteers. There is an ongoing effort to identify and acquire more of these original records which include census, birth/death and other materials. Again, this work is being accomplished by a few skilled members who have contacts in Russia and a familiarity with how to operate there. All of this work is proceeding mostly without interruption, with the exception there is no travel to Russia currently planned.

The headquarters operational leadership is under the direction of new executive director, Aaron Farber. Aaron has a background in leadership of nonprofit organizations. As such, one of his skills is identifying and applying for grants and funding from governmental entities and foundation. Recently Aaron was successful in applying for funding through the CARES act, acquiring grants of 32 and 10 thousand dollars. The work of the Foundation continues. Although the author is not qualified or authorized to give an official report, I am informed the endowment is structured in such a way that recent market volatility has had only a limited effect on the assets under management.

Recently Concordia University in Portland OR announced it will be closing (unfortunately one of many small private colleges and universities around the country closing). Concordia University hosts the Center for Volga German Studies and consequently CVGS is being dissolved. This is a relatively new organization but has, in a short time, amassed a considerable amount of reference materials and records. AHSGR is in negotiation with CVGS to be the new home for these materials.

As important as the preservation of our ancestral records and folkways, operating the organization to serve our members and maintaining financial stability are, the top priority of the board of directors and the headquarters staff is to broaden the reach of the organization to the next generation. In many cases, these people with German surnames are unaware of their German from Russia background. This makes the outreach challenging, but is a factor in how the new social media and other programs are being structured.

We all look forward to a return to normal activity in the weeks and months ahead and are optimistic we will continue to meet the challenges and changes ahead and continue to make known and preserve knowledge of our amazing heritage.

GRHS Update

— Linda Boehm —

Notes from the GRHS Board Meeting, April 25, 2020.

1. The 50th Anniversary GRHS Convention, scheduled to be held in Bismarck, North Dakota for this late July 2020, has been cancelled.
2. The next GRHS Convention is tentatively scheduled for July 2021 in Bismarck, North Dakota.
3. The GRHS Convention for 2022 is tentatively scheduled for Aberdeen, South Dakota in mid-July.
4. The new charter for the SVCGR Sacramento group (our local chapter) will be mailed to Lee Macklin, instead of having the presentation at the cancelled 2020 event.
5. No money was lost in the 2020 cancellation process with the Ramkota Hotel convention rooms, and the Ramkota management will work with GRHS for the re-scheduled convention in 2021.
6. The GRHS website continues to be a work in progress.
7. During these unusual times, the GRHS headquarters in Bismarck has minimal staff from 10 AM to 2PM.

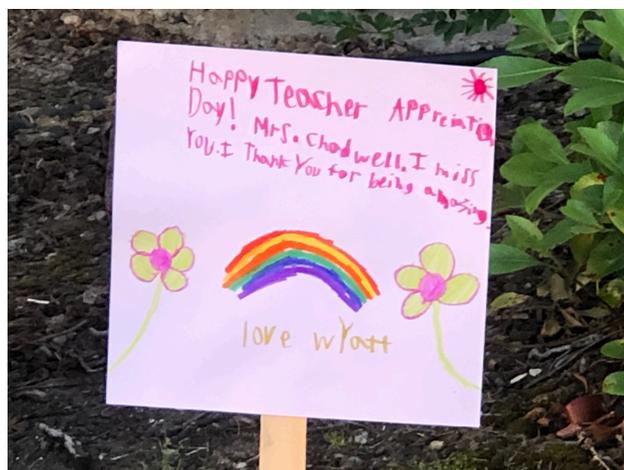
Happiness to Brighten Your Day

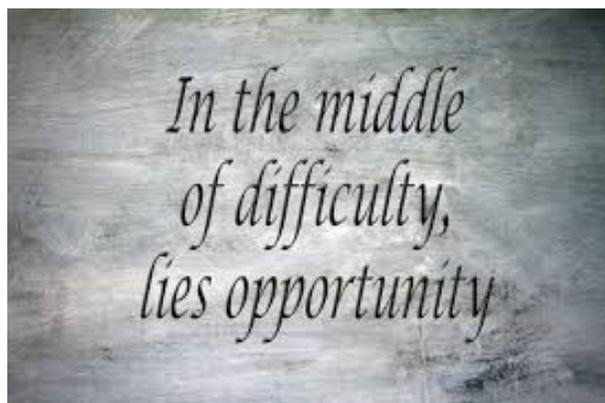
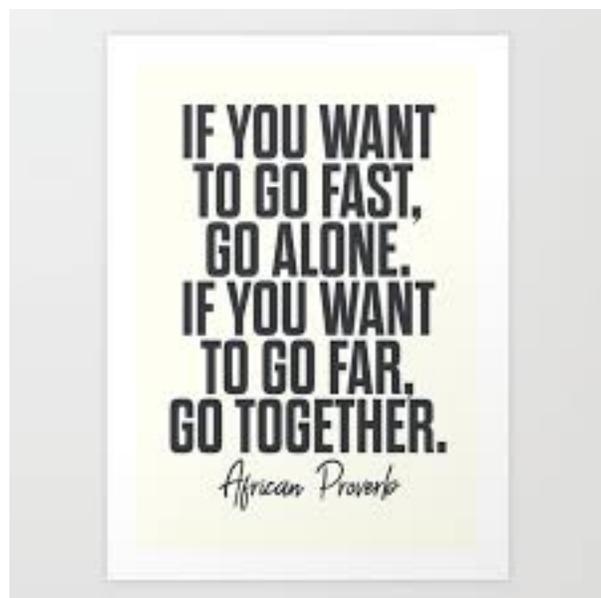
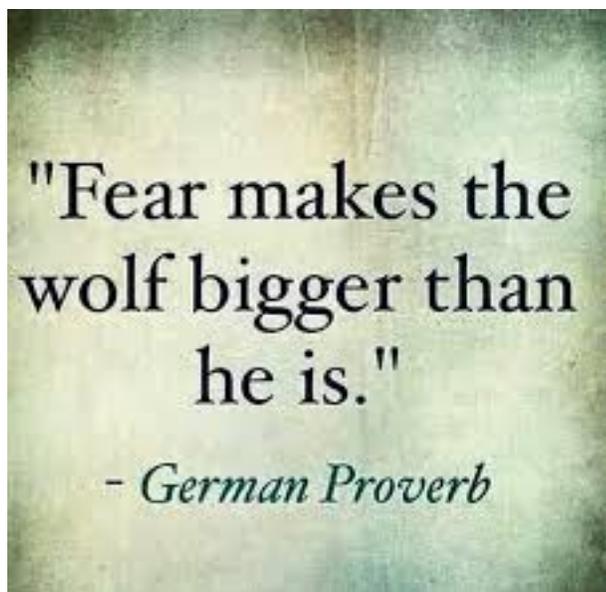
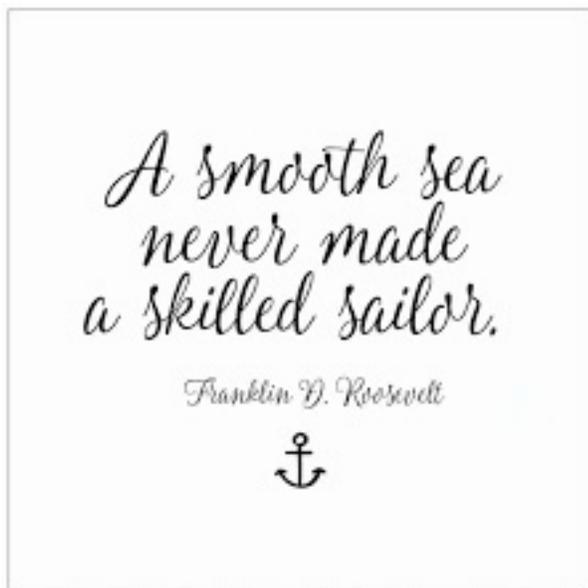
New Teacher Appreciation Signs, and Inspiring Quotes

—Photos by Lee Macklin

Every morning I take my Black & White Border Collie “Pilot” for an early (sunrise) two mile walk around the neighborhood. Pilot is 14 years old and just happy to still be able to make the daily trip. Some days I take my Red & White Border Collie “Blaze”. He is younger and still curious about everything. He is always thrilled and views everyday as the beginning of a new adventure. For me, the exercise is good and it gives me a chance to decide what I want to accomplish during the day. Sometimes we take different routes just to make things a little more interesting.

In our previous Newsletter, I discussed viewing the multitude of inspirational graffiti we saw on sidewalks, corners and driveways. However, a couple weeks ago we were pleasantly surprised to see posters in many yards that students created thanking their teachers and expressing how they missed school. So, here are a few.





Note, please check out the new “Happiness” section on our website. Scroll down to the bottom of the Home page and click the happiness image. On the resulting page, you can view all of the wonderful writings that the neighborhood kids so carefully inscribed. On the website when you click on a photo it will zoom up so you can clearly read it and each one also has a caption describing exactly what it says. There are separate pages for Sidewalk Graffiti, Teacher Appreciation, and Inspiring Quotes. <https://www.svcgr.org/happiness>

2020 Member Survey

— Lee Macklin

Our SVCGR 2020 Member Survey will be emailed (or mailed to those without email addresses) next week to all members. If received by email, please print it. All members please fill out the survey and mail it to Lee Macklin (mailing address is listed on the survey). We really need feedback from as many members as possible so we can provide the benefits that the majority of members want. Thank you for taking the time to fill out this important survey.